

REPORT
ON
NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 6th April 1889.

CONTENTS:

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		The sanitary provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act ... 276	
		Mussulman nominees for the Calcutta Municipality ... ib.	
		The Calcutta municipal election and the <i>Englishman</i> newspaper ... ib.	
		(f)—Questions affecting the land—	
		Nil.	
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
(a)—Police—		The Dacca-Mymensingh Railway ... ib.	
The chowkidars of Rukani, in the district of Furreedpore ... ib.		Railway grievances of the natives and their redress... ib.	
		Roads in the Uluberiah sub-division of the Howrah district ... 277	
(b)—Working of the Courts—		Mismanagement in two railway steamers... ib.	
Lakhrajidars in the Court of the Deputy Collector of Burdwan ... ib.		(h)—General—	
An additional Subordinate Judge for Burdwan ... 274		Dr. Gregg's Sanitary Circular ... ib.	
Mr. Phillips, Magistrate of Rajshahye ... ib.		The English Factory Law in India ... 278	
European and native offenders in the Indian courts ... ib.		The Conservative Ministry and reforms in the Indian Legislative Councils ... ib.	
Trial by Jury ... 275		The Military Accounts Office ... ib.	
Sheristadars in the courts of young Deputy Magistrates ... ib.		An appointment in the office of the Board of Revenue ... 279	
		Sir David Barbour on the excise policy of Government ... ib.	
(c)—Jails—		An Excise Commissionership for Bengal ... ib.	
Nil.		The Budget ... ib.	
		The Munshigunge Sub-Registry Office ... ib.	
(d)—Education—		The Budget ... ib.	
Some text-books for the Dacca Circle ... ib.		The Sukshmabati and the Lajjabati rivers in the district of 24-Pergunnahs ... 280	
		Council reform ... ib.	
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		The debate on the Budget ... 281	
Water-works in the town of Mymensingh ... ib.		III.—LEGISLATIVE.	
Engineers on the Calcutta Municipal Board ... ib.		Nil.	

	Page.		Page.
IV.—NATIVE STATES.		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Cashmere	281	Indian loyalty	284
Cashmere	282	Maharajah Dhuleep Singh's proclamation	285
The secret of the Cashmere question	ib.	The poverty of India	283
Cashmere	ib.		
Liquor traffic in the Native States	ib.		
The Cashmere State	ib.		
Cashmere	283		
The Maharajah of Cashmere and the <i>Pioneer</i> news-paper	ib.		
V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.		URIA PAPERS.	
		Nil.	
Distress in the Midnapore Khas Mehals	ib.	ASSAM PAPERS.	
Distress in the Diamond Harbour sub-division	284	Nil.	
Scarcity of water at Chhaigharia in the Khulna district	ib.		
The conditions of the people of Madhubkati, in the Khulna district	ib.		

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	" Kasipore Nibási "	Kasipore, Burrisal	30	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
2	" Ahammadi "	Tangail, Mymensingh	450	
3	" Ave Maria "	Calcutta ... ..	.....
4	" Divákar "	Ditto ... ..	.....
5	" Gaura Duta "	Maldah ... ..	.....
6	" Grambási "	Uluberia	800	28th March 1889.
7	" Purva Bangabási "	Noakholly ... ..	.....
8	" Purva Darpan "	Chittagong	700	
9	" Uttara Banga Hitaishi "	Mahiganj, Rungpore... ..	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
10	" Arya Darpan "	Calcutta	102	22nd ditto.
11	" Bangabási "	Ditto	20,000	30th ditto.
12	" Burdwán Sanjibani "	Burdwan	302	26th ditto.
13	" Chandra Vilásh "	Berhampore	250	
14	" Cháruvartá "	Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	25th ditto.
15	" Chattal Gazette "	Chittagong	800	26th ditto.
16	" Dacca Prakásh "	Dacca	1,200	31st ditto.
17	" Education Gazette "	Hooghly	885	29th ditto.
18	" Garib "	Dacca	3,000	
19	" Gaurab "	Ditto ... ..	.....	28th ditto.
20	" Hindu Ranjiká "	Beauleah, Rajshahye... ..	300	27th ditto.
21	" Jagatbási "	Calcutta	750	27th ditto.
22	" Murshidábád Patriká "	Berhampore	508	
23	" Murshidábád Pratinidhi "	Ditto	350	
24	" Navavibhákar Sádharáni "	Calcutta	600	1st April 1889.
25	" Prajá Bandhu "	Chandernagore	995	29th March 1889.
26	" Pratikár "	Berhampore	600	
27	" Rungpore Dik Prakásh "	Kakinia, Rungpore	205	
28	" Sahachar "	Calcutta	500	27th ditto.
29	" Samaya "	Ditto	3,806	29th ditto.
30	" Sanjivani "	Ditto	4,000	30th ditto.
31	" Sansodhini "	Chittagong	800	
32	" Santi "	Calcutta	3,722	
33	" Saráswat Patra "	Dacca	300	
34	" Som Prakásh "	Calcutta	1,000	1st April 1889.
35	" Srímantha Saudagár "	Ditto ... ..	.....
36	" Sulabha Samáchar o Kusadaha "	Ditto	800	
37	" Surabhi o Patáka "	Ditto	700	28th March 1889.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<i>Daily.</i>				
38	"Dainik o Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Calcutta ...	1,500	28th March & 3rd April 1889.
39	"Samvád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	800	30th March & 1st to 4th April 1889.
40	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	300	28th to 30th March & 1st to 4th
41	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Ditto ...	500	April 1889.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	.....	1st April 1889.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
43	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samáchar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling ...	20	
44	"Kshtriya Pratiká" ...	Patna ...	200	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
45	"Aryávarta" ...	Calcutta ...	1,500	30th March 1889.
46	"Behar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore ...	.....
47	"Bhárat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	1,653	
48	"Sár Sudhánidhi" ...	Ditto ...	500	
49	"Uchit Baktá" ...	Ditto ...	4,500	
50	"Hindi Samáchar" ...	Bhagulpore ...	1,000	
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
51	"Jám-Jahán-numá" ...	Calcutta ...	250	29th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
52	"Aftal Alum Arrah" ...	Arrah ...	300	
53	"Akhbar Tusdiq-i-Hind" ...	Calcutta ...	.....
54	"Anis" ...	Patna ...	.....
55	"Gauhur" ...	Calcutta ...	196	1st April 1889.
56	"Sharaf-ul-Akbar" ...	Behar ...	150	
57	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipore ...	.....	1st ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
58	"Akhbar-i-darusaltanat" ...	Calcutta ...	340	
<i>Daily.</i>				
59	"Urdu Guide" ...	Calcutta ...	212	
URIA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
60	"Asha" ...	Cuttack ...	.....
61	"Taraka and Subhavartá" ...	Ditto ...	.....
62	"Pradíp" ...	Ditto ...	.....
63	"Samyabadi" ...	Ditto ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
64	"Utkal Dípiká" ...	Cuttack ...	444	
65	"Balasore Samvad Váhika" ...	Balasore ...	205	
66	"Urya and Navasamvád" ...	Ditto ...	600	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
67	"Silchar" ...	Silchar ...	500	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
68	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	450	

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Sahachar*, of the 27th March, says that the Amir of Afghanistan will shortly go to Kandahar, and the Government of India should give him distinctly to

SAHACHAR,
March 27th, 1889.

The Amir of Afghanistan.

understand that if he invites a quarrel with Russia he will receive no help from it. The Government should also refuse to grant the Amir's request to send an ambassador to him.

2. The same paper says that, in view of the disturbances constantly made by the wild tribes residing in the frontiers of the Indian Empire, the Government of

SAHACHAR.

The frontier tribes.

India should make up its mind to come once for all to some definite understanding with respect to these tribes. It should occupy and annex the territories of those tribes who live in the immediate vicinity of the Indian Empire, and invite and encourage the Amir of Afghanistan and the Emperor of China, respectively, to establish their authority over the remoter tribes. The Amir is anxious to establish his supremacy over some of the tribes in the north-west frontier of India, and Government should not stand in his way in the matter.

The next question is, how to govern the tribes who will be thus brought under the control of Government? The poverty of these tribes will stand in the way of the establishment of a costly administrative system in their country. The best thing which Government could do for their government would therefore be to appoint the representatives of the old royal families of Oudh, Mysore, and Delhi as Governors over them, with instructions not to supersede the forms of government which they may find existing among them. By this means the wild tribes will be effectually kept under control, and administrative expensiveness will be avoided. It was thus that Akbar and Jehangir utilised the services of Princes of Rajput blood in governing the remote provinces of their Empire. And it is a fact that in their time, and especially in that of Akbar, frontier disturbances were not heard of so often as at that present.

3. The *Surabhi o Patáka*, of the 28th March, referring to the declaration made by the Secretary of State for India in Parliament that the Indians residing in

SURABHI O PATAKA,
March 28th, 1889.

The Indians in Zanzibar.

Zanzibar are entitled to no compensation for the loss they have suffered in the war carried on there by Germany, remarks that the Secretary of State would have thought differently if the Germans had been Lushais. The sense of justice of the Indian authorities is indeed of a very strange character.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

4. A correspondent of the *Bangabási*, of the 30th March, says that

BANGABASI,
March 30th, 1889.

The chowkidars of Rukani, in the district of Furreedpore.

several thefts have been committed at Rukani, a village in the Goalundo sub-division of the Furreedpore district, but the police have been unable to trace the thieves. And yet the Sub-divisional Officer of Goalundo has recommended an increase in the salaries of the inefficient local chowkidars. The inhabitants of the village are very poor, and they can ill-afford to pay the increased chowkidari tax required to meet the proposed increase in the pay of the chowkidars.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

5. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 26th March, complains that owners of petty lakhraj estates who are coming to the Court of the Deputy Collector of Burdwan to file returns of their

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 26th, 1889.

Lakhrajidars in the Court of the Deputy Collector of Burdwan.

estates are being subjected to oppression. Recently one of these owners produced a fellow-villager for the purpose of his identification. But the Deputy Collector refused to recognise the fellow-villager as a fit man to identify him, and required him to produce a mukhtear for his identification. He was thus compelled to pay four annas to a gachtala mukhtear, who identified him for that consideration. But is identification by such mukhtears more satisfactory than identification by fellow-villagers? These poor proprietors have to spend 10 or 12 annas in coming to Burdwan. They have also to pay 2 annas to the writer who fills up the returns. And it is unjust to put them to further expense. Where, again, is the need of requiring these proprietors to file returns of their estates when it is certain that their estates will be included in the talukdars' returns? It is to be hoped that the Deputy Collector will put a stop to this practice.

SAHACHAR,
March 27th, 1889.

An additional Subordinate Judge
for Burdwan.

6. The Burdwan correspondent of the *Sahachar*, of the 27th March, says that much inconvenience is felt by suitors and witnesses in the Subordinate Judge's Court at Burdwan in consequence of a heavy accumulation of arrears in that Court, and asks the authorities to send an additional Subordinate Judge to Burdwan.

DAINIK O SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 28th, 1889.

Mr. Phillips, Magistrate of Rajshahye.

7. The *Dainik o Samachar Chandrika*, of the 28th March, takes exception to the proceedings of Mr. Phillips, the Magistrate of Rajshahye, in a case in which one Uma Baishnavi was charged with having given false information to the police. The case was instituted in the Court of Baboo Akshaya Kumar Mukerji, but was transferred by order of the Magistrate to the file of Baboo Barada Prasad Ganguli, who sentenced her to one month's imprisonment. The Baishnavi preferred an appeal to the Magistrate, who rejected her application without even reading the papers of the case. She next appealed to the High Court, which called for an explanation from the Magistrate. Mr. Phillips submitted his explanation a short time before the expiration of Uma's term of imprisonment, and the explanation is not satisfactory. Its perusal creates the impression that the Magistrate wanted that Uma should undergo the full term of her imprisonment, and that he entertains no respect for the decision of the High Court. Mr. Phillips ought to be taught a lesson, and Sir Steuart Bayley is requested to look to the matter.

SANJIVANI,
March 30th, 1889.

European and native offenders in
the Indian courts.

8. The *Sanjivani*, of the 30th March, refers to the case of Sarfaraz Khan, who struck Mr. Sweeting, his old master, with a stick, and who was sentenced by the Judge of Derajat to undergo transportation for life, and whose sentence has been reduced to seven years' imprisonment by the Allahabad High Court on appeal, and remarks that, although the evidence against Sarfaraz Khan was of a purely circumstantial nature, still he has been convicted and sentenced to undergo imprisonment for seven years for the trifling offence of striking his master with a stick. The writer has no sympathy with a servant who behaves ungratefully towards his master, but he will nevertheless say that the sentence passed upon Sarfaraz has been a most severe and unjust one. The other day the Judges of the Allahabad High Court sentenced Private Arthur Reynolds to three months' imprisonment for shooting at Mohan Singh, and that very Court has now sentenced Sarfaraz Khan to seven years' imprisonment for striking Mr. Sweeting with a stick! Such unequal treatment of European and native offenders in the courts of the country is shaking the confidence of the people in the English administration of justice, and is a disgrace to the English administration in India.

9. The same paper says that one Dada Alu and his wife were charged with murder. The jurors passed a verdict of not guilty, but Mr. Easton, the

Trial by Jury.

Judge of Ahmedabad, being of a different opinion, referred the case to the Bombay High Court. Mr. Justice Jardine came to the conclusion that both the accused persons were innocent, but Mr. Justice Candy was of opinion that the husband was guilty, and was for passing upon him the extreme penalty of the law. The case was referred to Sir Charles Sargeant, the Chief Justice, who acquitted the woman, and sentenced Dada Alu to transportation for life.

Seven jurors pronounced Dada Alu innocent, but the Judge sentenced him to be hanged, and the High Court next sentenced him to transportation for life. And so if there had been a higher tribunal than the High Court, it is probable that Dada Alu would have been acquitted! How long will such judicial scandals be heard of? A Judge acting against the verdict of seven jurors is a thing only possible in India: such a thing would not have been tolerated in any other country. What necessity is there for the jury system if the verdict of the majority of jurors is not to be accepted?

10. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 1st April, says that young Deputy Magistrates are mere puppets in the hands of their Sheristadars. The writer knows of a case in which a Sheristadar misappropriated the stamp affixed to a petition, and when this was discovered, managed to escape by hushing up the matter. This Sheristadar has played many pranks, and yet he is the right hand man of a Deputy Magistrate.

Sheristadars in the courts of young Deputy Magistrates.

SANJIVANI,
March 30th, 1889.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 1st, 1889.

(d)—Education.

11. The *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 31st March, says that portions of some of the text-books selected for the Dacca Circle are extremely repugnant to Hindu notions, and are therefore unsuitable for Hindu boys. But those who have selected the text-books in question have very considerably directed that the objectionable portions are not to be read. But the books are being sold with their offensive parts left intact; and as everyone feels irresistibly tempted to do precisely that which he is forbidden to do, much evil is likely to result from the sale of these books. The school authorities and the guardians of the students should see that the students do not purchase books whose objectionable portions have not been expurgated.

Some text-books for the Dacca Circle.

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 31st, 1889.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

12. The *Chāruvartā*, of the 25th March, says that of the one lakh and fifty thousand rupees required to complete the water-works in the Mymensingh Municipality, one lakh and ten thousand has been raised from local sources, and forty thousand rupees are still wanted. When so large an amount has been locally raised, it is hoped that Government will remove a long-felt want of the people of Mymensingh by contributing the remaining 40 thousand rupees.

Water-works in the town of Mymensingh.

CHARUVARTTA,
March 25th, 1889.

13. The *Navavibhākar Sādhārani*, of the 26th March, says that the Calcutta Municipality has to construct many costly works, and it is Engineers who best understand such works. And as not a single Engineer has been returned under the late election, Government ought to have nominated a few Engineers to the Municipal Board. It has, indeed,

Engineers on the Calcutta Municipal Board.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
March 26th, 1889.

nominated one Engineer, Mr. Neil. But one Engineer will not be enough. One or two native Engineers should have been nominated.

SAHACHAR,
March 27th, 1889.

14. The *Sahachar*, of the 27th March, says that when the amalgamation of the Suburban Municipality with the Calcutta Municipality was talked of, the people of the Suburbs felt quite panic-struck.

The sanitary provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act. But the writer heard that proposal with pleasure. But since the passing of the Calcutta Municipal Act, the writer's pleasurable feeling has entirely vanished. The sanitary provisions of that Act, if enforced, will compel a good many middle class people to fly from the town. Sanitation is a good thing no doubt. But people must have first to eat, and then they can be asked to observe the laws of sanitation. The remark so often made against the Congress that it wants to do in a day the work which can be done in fifty years applies to the sanitary provisions of the new Act. That Act will have to be soon changed. Sir Steuart Bayley should look to the matter.

SURABHI O PATAKA,
March 28th, 1889.

15. The *Surabhi o Patáká*, of the 28th March, says that five Mussulmans, four Europeans, three Hindus, two Parsis, and one Jew have been nominated by Government as Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality.

This is one illustration of the policy of partiality to the Mussulmans, which is now being followed by the English Government. The writer has no objection to the presence of a large number of Mussulmans in the Municipal Council. But he fears that they will only swell the ranks of *ap-ke-wastes* in the Municipal Board.

DACCA GAZETTE,
April 1st, 1889.

16. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 1st April, says that the Hindus form 62·6 per cent. of the population of Calcutta and its Suburbs, while the Mussulmans form 32·2 per cent., and the Christians only 4·4 per cent. of that population.

Such being the case, the number of Hindu Commissioners ought to have been at least 50. But although the actual number of Hindu Commissioners is only 38, and that of Christian Commissioners is 23 or 24, or nearly one-third of the entire number of Commissioners, the anti-Bengali *Englishman* newspaper, like a person possessed by a malignant spirit, is furiously crying out against the unduly large proportion of Hindu Commissioners on the new Municipal Board. The *Englishman* also says that the number of Mahomedan Commissioners ought to have been larger. But though the Mahomedan population is large, the number of voters among them is small. Indeed, if the number of representatives of the several communities on the Municipal Board were determined by the number of voters among them respectively, three-fourths of the entire number of Commissioners would be Hindus. What the *Englishman* really desires is that the municipal law should be gradually so amended that none but Englishmen may become Municipal Commissioners.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

CHARUVARTA,
March 25th, 1889.

17. The *Cháruvartá*, of the 25th March, refers to several railway accidents on the Dacca-Mymensingh Railway, and says that within 10 days three persons

The Dacca-Mymensingh Railway. have been run over by railway trains. A large number of cattle have also been crushed to death under railway trains. The Railway authorities are therefore requested to prevent such accidents by constructing wire fences on both sides of their line.

SURABHI O PATAKA,
March 28th, 1889.

18. A correspondent of the *Surabhi o Patáká*, of the 28th March, says that the Railway Companies which have opened railways here for the sake of profit, and not for benefiting the people, care very little to put an end to those oppressions on their lines which are not likely

Railway grievances of the natives and their redress.

to cause them any pecuniary loss. They know well that the natives must use their railways, however great the oppressions to which they may be subjected in doing so.

The correspondent then complains that on one occasion, within his knowledge, the railway servants took no notice of the entry of some male passengers into a female compartment of a train running on the Eastern Bengal Railway, and that on another occasion a train which was to take passengers at Hooghly at 9 p.m. went away to Naihati with mails only and without stopping to take passengers, and returned one hour after to take passengers, thereby causing great inconvenience to many of the latter.

19. A correspondent of the *Grámabási*, of the 28th March, says that the road from Thalia to Jhigra in the Uluberiah sub-division is in a very bad condition, and is in want of repair. The following roads should also be repaired by the District Board under its own superintendence:—The road near Kulia, the road from Fatepur to Sonamui *viá* Odang, the road from Bagnan Khador to Ghoraghata, the road from Kantapore to Rasti *viá* Najarpore, the road from the south of the Baghaberghat to the road near Nuntia *viá* Masame Baidyanathpore, the road from Nuntiahat to Benaporeghat *viá* Bhunara Khanjadapore, the road from Shampore Jhumjhum to Khamberhat, and the road from Gujrat to Gartali.

The District Board proposes to construct a wide road from Uluberia to Shampore. But it should widen the road from Shampore to Bagnan. This road is a very important one, and the traffic on it will suffer so long as it is not widened and thoroughly repaired. But it is not in the power of the Local Board to do this. The District Board is also requested to widen the road from Makrapathar to the Bagnan Khadinanghat *viá* Shampore, and the road commencing on the opposite side of the ghât and going as far as Fatepore *viá* Bangalpore Agunsi. If this is done, there will be a good road from Makrapathar to Bagnan.

20. The *Som Prakash*, of the 1st April, says that there is great mismanagement in the two railway steamers plying between Diamond Harbour and Gewankhali and Gewankhali and Tumlook, respectively. There are only two classes in the steamers. The first and second class railway passengers are accommodated in the first class, and the third and intermediate class railway passengers are accommodated in the second class. But though the number of intermediate class railway passengers is by far the largest, the accommodation in the second class of the steamers is much less than that in the first class. For this reason intermediate class passengers have to stand in the sun with third class passengers. On the 18th March last, the writer, with two other persons, came from Diamond Harbour to Gewankhali in the steamer which plies between these places. The khalasi who came to collect fares did not take fares from them. On going to the steamer that goes to Tumlook they informed the serang of this. But the serang got angry, and tried to make out that they themselves had been guilty of cheating. Upon this they returned to the other steamer and recorded the matter in the Company's book of complaints. The Railway authorities should enquire.

(h)—General.

21. The *Cháruvartá*, of the 25th March, thanks Dr. Gregg for his Sanitary Circulars, and hopes that the directions contained in them for the improvement of public health will be attended to by all Municipal authorities.

GRAMBASI,
March 28th, 1889

SOM PRAKASH,
April 1st, 1889.

CHARUVARTA,
March 25th, 1889.

SAHACHAR,
March 27th, 1889.

22. The *Sahachar*, of the 27th March, has the following on the subject of the extension of the English Factory Law to India:—
The English Factory Law in India.

Both the Government and the people of India are strongly opposed to the extension of these laws to India. And the two most irrefutable arguments that can be urged against the extension are—

- (1) that as the population of India has greatly increased of late years, agriculture alone will not maintain the country, and Government is therefore under the necessity of encouraging manufacturing industry in India; and
- (2) that as Government has already sacrificed a large amount of revenue for the sake of the merchants of Manchester, it cannot be fairly asked to make a further sacrifice on their account. It is hoped that, in protesting against the new demand of Manchester, the Government of India will not fail to make use of these arguments.

If wealthy England cannot sacrifice the revenue she derives from the duty levied on gold and silver articles, it will surely be most unjust to call upon poor India to make a further sacrifice in her interest. The proposal of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, if granted, will mean the absolute ruin of the cloth manufacture of India. And the question is, will the English Ministry allow this to be done in spite of the protest of the Government and the people of this country?

SURABHI O PATAKA,
March 28th, 1889.

23. The *Surabhi o Patáka*, of the 28th March, says that the reforms in the Legislative Councils recommended by Lord Dufferin fall far short of the wishes of the Indian people. If the present Ministry cannot concede those reforms, they will clearly prove themselves incapable of following a generous policy and will produce a storm of discontent in India, which, combined with the disturbances in Ireland, will be sufficient to cause their overthrow.

SURABHI O PATAKA.

24. The same paper says that the division of the Military Accounts Office into an Eastern and a Western Branch, and the announcement that they are both for the present to remain in their present office premises, seem to indicate that these offices will be removed in future to places in the east and west of India, respectively. But it is not easy to see what good will be gained by the removal of these offices. Executive Military offices in the western part of India may be helpful in the maintenance of the frontier defences. But the location of both Military Executive and Military Accounts Offices at the same place will increase the chances of a falsification of the accounts. It may be argued that there is now delay in the receipt of accounts from Peshawur, and there will be a gain of two or three days if the Western Branch of the Military Accounts Office is removed to some place in the western part of India. But under the proposed arrangement there will be delay in the arrival of accounts from Burmah in the western part of India. The continuance of the Eastern Branch in Bengal will not be therefore in any way disadvantageous.

While the removal of the Western Branch of the office to the western part of India will not, as has been shown above, result in any appreciable good to Government, it will be a source of great hardship to the clerks employed in that branch, the majority of whom do not receive more than Rs. 60 a month, and have to maintain from 10 to 12 souls on that small income. And so small an income will be insufficient for the maintenance of so many persons in a distant place. As, however, the removal of the Western Branch to the western part of India has been determined upon, it should be seen

that the removal is made to a place which is healthy, and where provisions are cheap. Meerut, Allahabad, and Lucknow are places of this kind, and the removal of the Western Branch to any of these places will enable poor clerks on Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 to save and send home Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 every month—a sum which will enable their families to keep body and soul together somehow or other. The Government should give its best attention to the subject, and the Viceroy, it is hoped, will favourably consider the case of these poor clerks.

25. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 29th March, is sorry that a son of Mr. Moreno, the late Registrar of the Bengal Secretariat, has been appointed in the place of Baboo Saradaprasad Chatterjea, in the Office of the Board of Revenue, in supersession of the claims of the employés of that office. What will become of the poor clerks who have no patrons if the Secretaries and the higher clerks go on providing for their protégés in this manner? Will not the Lieutenant-Governor look to these matters?

PRAJA BANDHU,
March 29th, 1889.

An appointment in the Office of the Board of Revenue.

26. The *Sanjivani*, of the 30th March, says that, on the occasion of the discussion of the budget, Sir David Barbour made an unsuccessful attempt to vindicate the excise policy of Government. He said that the consumption of *ganja* has decreased, but the revenue from *ganja* has increased. He did not, however, make any statement regarding the extent of the consumption of liquor, and he was unable to prove that Government has not helped in the consumption of liquor in order to increase its liquor revenue. It is very strange that, in the face of so strong an agitation throughout the country against the liquor traffic, Sir David was silent about the amount of revenue derived from the sale of liquor and the extent of its consumption.

SANJIVANI,
March 30th, 1889.

An Excise Commissionership for Bengal.

27. The same paper takes exception to the rumoured creation of a post of Excise Commissioner for Bengal. Such a post will be an excellent provision for a Civilian, but its creation will not look well in these days of so-called retrenchment of expenditure. It is, indeed, difficult to understand Government's policy.

SANJIVANI.

The Budget.

28. The *Samvád Prabhákar*, of the 30th March, says that it is of no use discussing the budget in the Viceregal Council or publishing it in the official gazette when there is no intention on the part of Government to make any alteration whatever in it at the suggestion of the public. Since the Financial Member's arrangements are intended to be absolute, the public have no real interest in knowing what arrangements he makes.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
March 30th, 1889.

The Munshigunge Sub-Registry Office.

29. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 31st March, complains that those who go to register documents at the Munshigunge Sub-Registry Office are compelled to give bribes to the durwan and the amla, that deeds are not registered without being returned once or twice, and that folio-fees have to be paid on almost all documents. That such oppression is committed is because the Sub-Registry Office has been located in an out-of-the-way place. The Sub-Registrar does nothing to put an end to this oppression. The higher authorities are therefore requested to look to the matter.

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 31st, 1889.

The Budget.

30. The *Navavibhakar Sádharani*, of the 1st April, says that the discussion of the budget in the Council every year henceforward will not do the country any very great good. But it will be of some use as an improvement on the existing system.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
April 1st, 1889.

The surplus which has been made to appear in the budget of this year is in reality fallacious. It is due to the inclusion of the Provincial contribution of Rs. 64,08,000 in the income sheet, and its omission will therefore result in a deficit instead of a surplus. By taking this sum the Government of India has made the Provincial Governments so much the poorer, and those Governments must recoup their loss by fresh taxation. Thus the assurance of the Imperial Government that there will be no fresh taxation will bring little comfort or consolation to the people.

Rajah Durgacharan Laha deserves to be thanked for his bold exposure of the real nature of the surplus shown in the budget.

But the Rajah has seriously erred on one point. According to him, the income-tax is felt to be a hardship, but the salt duty is not, and of the two it is the former which Government should first think of abolishing. It is true that the income-tax weighs heavily upon the people, but this is so because the minimum assessable income is Rs. 500, and assessments are made in an improper manner. Raise the minimum and assess fairly, and the tax becomes perfectly unobjectionable. But it is otherwise with the salt tax. The rich do not feel its pressure, but it is keenly felt by the poor, whose number is by far the largest, and who require more salt than rich people, because they have nothing else to season their food with. Thus in proportion to their respective incomes, the poor have to pay a higher rate of tax than the rich, and this is very unjust. And not even the beggar is exempt from this salt tax. The fact that Rajah Piyarimohan Mukerjee also contended in the Council last year that the salt tax is no hardship at all to any one, probably means that this view of the salt tax is a cardinal point in the fiscal policy, which it is the interest of the British Indian Association to advocate. But the impropriety of the salt tax was demonstrated long ago, and it is to be hoped that Government will abolish this tax at the first opportunity.

Rajah Durgacharan Laha is interested in the abolition of the income-tax, and it is therefore no wonder that he should advise Government to make its abolition practicable by increasing the salt tax. Syud Amir Hossen's proposal that the minimum assessable income should be raised to Rs. 1,000 is perhaps the best that could be made on this subject.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 1st, 1889.

31. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 1st April, says that the periodical outbreaks of malaria in the 24-Pergunnahs district are due to the silting up of the rivers Sukshmabati and Lajjabati, in the district of

The Sukshmabati and the Lajjabati rivers in the district of 24-Pergunnahs.

24-Pergunnahs, which is the reason why the marshes in that district remain full of water throughout the year, to the great injury of the health of the surrounding tracts. Government twice made surveys for the purpose of the re-excavation of those rivers, but did not undertake the work from financial considerations. It will be a matter of great regret, however, if Government, which is wasting money in so many directions, does not spend money for the re-excavation of these rivers. It is hoped that Sir Steuart Bayley will lay the people under eternal obligation by re-excavating them.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR
April 2nd, 1889.

32. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 2nd April, thanks the Secretary of State for India, Lord Dufferin, and Lord Lansdowne for the reforms introduced in the

Council reform.

Viceregal Council on the lines suggested by the National Congress. The permission given by the authorities to discuss the budget every year, and the introduction of the practice of interpellation, will not cover the whole of the Congress programme of reform. But they are valuable enough in themselves, and have earned for Lord Lansdowne the gratitude of the country.

Lord Lansdowne is requested to let the country know how the question of the reorganisation of the Provincial Councils now stands.

33. The *Dainik o Samachar Chandrika*, of the 3rd April, says that, on the occasion of the discussion of the budget, the Member for the Public Works Department

DAINIK O SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 3rd, 1889.

The debate on the budget.

said that all possible reduction of expenditure was being effected in the directions indicated by the Secretary of State, and that fewer Cooper's Hill men are now being taken than before. He also stated that old Public Works Engineers are being pensioned off. The writer has no accurate statement before him to show to what extent the importation of Cooper's Hill men has decreased. But Cooper's Hill Engineers are still met with all over the country, and though many of them have no work to do, they are maintained on the plea of being employed in doing some work or other. There is no good in pensioning away officers before their time. The services of men who have no work to do should be dispensed with, which is, as a matter of fact, done in all countries except India.

There has been no reduction in the expenditure on public works. The reduction in the expenditure on roads is counterbalanced by the increase in the expenditure on railways and canals. Railways have done no miraculous good to this country, and canals, even in the opinion of many Engineers, are not an unmixed good. Sir Charles Elliott has tried to console the public by holding out hopes of future profit from the canals; but there is no knowing when the canals will even pay the interest of the money which has been, or will be expended upon their construction. Railways will have to be extended in deference to the wishes of the English merchants; but there is as little chance of profit from railways as from canals. The extension of railways will add to India's debts, which are already heavy enough to cause anxiety to the Indians.

There is no hope that the income-tax will be even reduced. Syud Amir Hossein's proposal that 1,000 rupees should be fixed as the minimum assessable income has been rejected. The Finance Member is of opinion that the Indians have not to make much expense, and they are therefore well able to pay the income tax if they have an income of Rs. 500. But does Sir David Barbour really think that an Englishman, with an annual income of less than 1,500 rupees, is worse off than an Indian with an annual income of less than 500 rupees? If not, would he rid the Indians of their money because they are thrifty, and because they do not, like Englishmen, waste all their money in eating and drinking? It would be impossible to entertain any respect for the man who would do so.

The assessment of the income tax is often characterised by gross injustice. That there is no loud clamour against the tax is simply because the Indians are weak and loyal. But because they do not cry or clamour, it should not be thought that the tax is not painful to them. Sir David is an old Civilian, and he knows well what the condition of the people is. That he is also not without independence is clearly shown by his minute of dissent from the Education Commissioners' Report. It is therefore difficult to understand why he has followed such a course in the matter of the income tax. Lord Lansdowne being a new Viceroy, Sir David should have led him along the right path.

Sir David wants to borrow money in England: but it is better to borrow here. There will be no exchange difficulty in connection with an Indian loan, and the interest of an Indian loan will be money which will remain in the country instead of going elsewhere.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

34. Referring to the serious allegations made against the Maharaja of Cashmere, and the prompt arrival of Colonel Nisbet at Calcutta with the alleged treason-

CHARUVARTA,
March 25th, 1889.

able letters, the *Charuvarta*, of the 25th March, delivers itself as follows:—
A thing of beauty has many enemies on earth. It was their fatal dower of beauty which was the cause of all the sorrows suffered by Tilottama,

Sita and Helen. The natural beauty of the Happy Valley marks it as a prey for all greedy hunters. The annexation of the Baroda State would have cast a stain on the English name without bringing any compensating advantage. But the case of Cashmere is very different: the mouths of Englishmen water at the very mention of the name of Cashmere: and Englishmen, it is well known, heed not dishonour or disgrace where there are prospects of gain. Witness the annexation of Burma. The account given of the discovery of the alleged treasonable letters appears, upon close examination, to be a very improbable one. The Viceroy is requested not to annex Cashmere. The annexation of that State may benefit a few Englishmen, but it will cast a deep stain on the English name.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 26th, 1889.

35. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 26th March, says that it is a popular impression in this country that Government feels very little regard for justice when

it finds an opportunity for annexing a native State. It is because they are under this impression that the people of this country thought, when they heard of the discovery of treasonable letters in Cashmere, that Government would annex that State. The existence of such an impression in the minds of the people regarding the Government is much to be regretted, and Government should see that this impression is not confirmed or strengthened by its action in the Cashmere affair. A Commission, composed of honest and independent men, should be appointed to enquire whether or not the letters which have fallen into the hands of Colonel Nisbet are genuine. And even if the Commission find the Maharajah guilty, Government should do nothing without duly considering his past behaviour as well as the behaviour of his father and grand-father towards the English Government. The writer wishes that no injustice may be done in this matter, and that the reputation of Government may in no way be sullied by the action it takes in regard to Cashmere.

DAINIK O SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 28th, 1889.

36. The *Dainik o Samachar Chandrika*, of the 28th March, says that while attempts are being made on the one hand to annex Cashmere, arrangements are also being made on the other to station three regiments

of British troops at the Gilgit pass at the expense of the Maharajah of Cashmere. The Government of India has indeed been trying for a long time to station English troops at that pass, and an opportunity has now presented itself for carrying that intention into effect. What the Maharajah's real offence is, and why Colonel Nisbet came to Calcutta with the alleged treasonable letters, should now be clear.

SAMAYA,
March 29th, 1889.

37. The *Samaya*, of the 29th March, is anxious to know what directions the Viceroy has given to Colonel Nisbet regarding the future government of Cashmere.

38. The *Sanjivani*, of the 30th March, says that some of the native princes are anxious to abolish liquor traffic within their States, but they cannot do so from

SANJIVANI,
March 30th, 1889.

a fear of the British Government. The Gaekwar of Baroda, it is reported, has told an English gentleman that he will be glad to abolish the excise trade altogether in his State. Whatever the British Government may do within its own territories, it is highly unfair on its part to press the native princes to permit a trade in intoxicating articles within their own States. It is hoped that the Bombay Government will allow the Gaekwar to exercise his own discretion in this matter. Perhaps the plea of free trade will be raised if native princes oppose the extension of Government's excise policy to native States.

SANJIVANI.

39. The same paper is not inclined to believe the statement of the *Pioneer* newspaper that the Viceroy has approved the appointment of a Council of Regency in Cashmere with Colonel Nisbet at its head. Cashmere will lose its independence if a Council of Regency is established there, and it will

virtually become a part of British territory. There is no reason to disbelieve the statement of the *Pioneer* newspaper. The Government is up to this time silent in this very serious matter, and its accredited organ is giving expression to its views. But an indelible stigma will attach to the name of the British Government if it makes the President virtual ruler of Cashmere without making an enquiry in the matter. No one ever heard of so onesided a decision as this. But the *Pioneer* is not satisfied with the proposed arrangements. It wants to place the army and the civil administration of Cashmere in the hands of English officers.

40. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 31st March, says that no sensible man will ever believe that the Maharajah of Cashmere is guilty of the offence with which he has been charged. On the other hand there are strong reasons for suspecting Colonel Nisbet of having forged the so-called treasonable letters. Government is therefore earnestly requested first to bring Colonel Nisbet to trial. It will not be right to try the Maharajah before trying the Resident. The English newspapers say that the Maharajah will be deposed. But the Maharajah should not be deposed for the following reasons:—

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 31st, 1889.

- (1).—Because it is not right to deprive any man of his property.
- (2).—Because it will not be right to break the treaty existing between Cashmere and the English Government.
- (3).—Because it will be ingratitude in the Government to forget the past services of the Maharajahs of Cashmere.

The dethronement of the Maharajah will alarm all the native princes, and they may thus be driven to combine in self-defence. The English Government reckons in such cases upon the weakness of the Indians. But it should bear in mind that even in this country of the gentle Hindus, a Raj Singh and a Sivaji made their appearance to contend with the Moghul Emperors when Moghul oppression became unbearable. But supposing there is nothing to fear from the meek Indians, is it right that the strong should oppress the weak? Are there not nations against whom the English are completely powerless? Will not the English nation disappear from the face of the earth if those nations deal with them on the principle of might is right? The writer earnestly entreats the English Government not to do injustice to the Maharajah of Cashmere.

41. The *Som Prakash*, of the 1st April, says, that according to the Hindu Sastras, Kings are emanations from the eight mighty guardian gods of the eight quarters, and it is this which gives them the power by which all others are overpowered. But how are the mighty now fallen! The native princes—all rulers of men—are now insulted by anybody and everybody. The *Pioneer* has had to apologise to Mrs. Spitta for saying that she had sold the letters placed in her husband's hands by Luchman Das. But it has not thought it necessary to apologise to a great native prince whom it has vilely abused.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 1st, 1889.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

42. A correspondent of the *Bangabasi*, of the 30th March, says that great distress prevails among the ryots of the Midnapore Khas Mehals. The inhabitants of the village Hajah near Heura in Midnapore do not get *rice-meals* even at intervals of one or two days. They are living on boiled *Gir* herb growing in waterlogged places.

BANGABASI,
March 30th, 1889.

Distress in the Midnapore Khas
Mehals.

BANGABASI,
March 30th, 1889.

43. The same paper draws the attention of the Bengal Government to the following account of the scarcity in the Diamond Harbour sub-division, which has been communicated to it by Bhabasindhu Hazra, of Chakitala post office, Magrahat:—"Scarcity prevails in the villages situated within the jurisdiction of the Bankipur Khas Mehals in the Diamond Harbour sub-division of the 24-Pergunnahs district. About 250 persons are suffering severely. The floods have destroyed even the paddy seed grains. Relief works have saved the lives of many persons, and suffering is now confined among old and disabled men, women and boys, who are unable to do hard manual work. These people will die of starvation if they receive no help. But the Deputy Magistrate does not listen to their prayers for relief. He has personally visited the afflicted tract, but has submitted rose-coloured reports to Government about its condition. If *tuccari* advances are not made, the people will be unable to buy paddy seed grains. The two Christian sects residing there are receiving help from their *padris*. But the Hindu and Mahomedan inhabitants have obtained no help from any one. There is, in fact, none to plead for these poor sufferers before Government. The Deputy Magistrate is requested not to conceal the real situation from Government, but to personally enquire into the sufferings of the inhabitants of the undermentioned villages, men, women, and children who are unable to work:—

Name of village.			Females.	Males.	Boys and girls.	Total.
1. Chakatala	...	...	7	2	4	13
2. Hathanagar	...	...	9	4	5	18
3. Maradana	...	...	8	3	2	13
4. Katpuddya	...	...	7	1	1	9
5. Lukhimkantpur	...	...	11	4	0	15
6. Bisseswarpur	...	...	9	1	17	27
7. Matarpur	...	...	5	2	1	8
8. Bullavpur	...	...	1	1	2	4
Total			57	18	32	107

BANGABASI.

44. A correspondent of the same paper complains of great scarcity of water at Chhaigharia, a village in the Satkhira sub-division of the Khulna district.

BANGABASI.

45. Another correspondent of the same paper says that Madhubkati, a village in the Satkhira sub-division of the Khulna district, is surrounded by dense jungle, and the ravages of tigers, leopards, wild boars and other ferocious animals have made the villagers very uneasy. The condition of the village roads is unsatisfactory, and the health of the villagers is also very bad. Malarial fever is raging in the village.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SAHACHAR,
March 27th, 1889.

46. The *Sahachar*, of the 27th March, says that the speech delivered by Lord Dufferin at a recent dinner in London is, in every respect, worthy of the retired Viceroy. According to his Lordship, the Indians are loyal subjects of the Queen of England, and even those who make use of hard words in criticising the measures of Government are loyal at heart, for they know too well that English rule has given to India whatever is held valuable by man, namely, liberty, peace and security of life and property. It is hoped that the editors

of Anglo Indian newspapers like the *Pioneer* will take note of these words of Lord Dufferin. They should bear in mind that the natives of India are as much pained when they are called "seditious" as a woman is pained when she is called unchaste or unfaithful to her husband. In their view ingratitude is the greatest of sins. It is true that language not quite temperate is occasionally made use of by writers in the native press. But that is done simply because it is not always possible for man to control his temper in the heat of a political controversy or under abuse from an opponent. It is also noticeable that it is only the acts of Government that are taken exception to in the native press, and that not the smallest hostility is cherished against the Queen's rule in India. It should also be noted that though the acts of Government are occasionally discussed, its laws and orders are always respected and obeyed, and no native writer or speaker ever advises anyone either to disrespect or infringe them.

It is therefore the clear duty of the Anglo-Indian writers not to call the writers in the Native press disloyal, simply because they differ occasionally from them in their treatment of current political questions. In England, for instance, the Tories and the Liberals, though holding diametrically opposite political views, do not call one another "seditious."

As Lord Dufferin has truly said, when the people of this country make any proposal for reform, they do so in the true interest of the empire. The Indian empire is a vast edifice: its foundation is laid on the loyalty of the people of India. The blood of Indians and of Englishmen is the material with which it is built. English law, an impartial administration of justice and liberty, are the doors and windows of this stately fabric. And the glory of England is its roof. Now this edifice, like all other edifices, stands in need of repair. And as in other edifices it sometimes becomes necessary to reject old and worn-out beams and rafters, and to rebuild cracked walls, so it is in the case of this edifice too. This being the case, the men who propose repairs to this edifice ought not to be regarded as men who intend its destruction. They should be rather regarded as men who intend to give it increased strength and permanence.

There are in this country millions of men who have not in all their lives seen a single soldier; and yet no disturbance of the peace of the country by the people is ever heard of. The people of this country are thoroughly law-abiding, and look upon the courts as real representatives of Her Majesty herself, and the law is the only weapon they wield or use. Troops are required in this country only for protecting it from foreign invasion. In short, English rule in India is, as Lord Dufferin has observed, a unique spectacle in the world. No other empire in the world was like this English Empire in India, ever reared with the assistance of the people composing it.

The people of India know that such liberty as they enjoy under English rule is not enjoyed by any country even in Europe, except France. This being so, no man, not absolutely run mad, can possibly desire or even wish for the subversion of that rule. What the people of this country want is that the favours which have been conferred by England upon her colonies and other dependencies may gradually be conferred upon them too. It may be that they are guilty of a little impatience in making this demand, but it cannot be just or fair to call them "seditious" on that account. For England will see that, when occasion arises, her loyal Indian sons will shew as much readiness as Englishmen themselves in defending her power and glory. The word "sedition" should be banished from the Anglo-Indian vocabulary.

47. Referring to the proclamation issued by Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, the *Aryavarta*, of the 30th March, says that all his attempts to come over to India with the aid of the European powers will fail.

ARYAVARTA,
March 30th, 1889.

Maharajah Dhuleep Singh's proclamation.

SOM PRAKASH,
April 1st, 1889.

48. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 1st April, says that the exportation of Indian food-grains to foreign countries, the increase of luxury among the people, heavy

The poverty of India.

taxation, and the unduly large salaries of the English officials are the causes of the increasing poverty in India. When the condition of the Indians is becoming worse and worse, Government should try to reduce the high salaries of its officers. But when Finance Commissions recommend retrenchment, it only deprives a few clerks and peons of their posts, leaving all large salaries untouched. According to Sir William Wedderburn, India is governed, not for the benefit of the Indians, but for the benefit of a few highly-paid civilians and military officers. It is therefore to be hoped that the financial authorities will attend to this matter.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 6th April 1889.